SHAUN STEVEN STRUBLE + SINA GRACE

NUMBER FOUR

THE LI'L DEPRESSED BOY™

image

SUPPOSED TO BE THERE, TOO

BIRTH

NOW, IT'S MY TURN TO TREAT YOU.
LEMURIA
LEMURIA
WELL, THAT WAS FUN.
IT'S A SHAME WE ONLY HAVE ONE MORE DAY BEFORE WE HAVE TO RETURN TO THE THEATRE.
YEAH.

CHAPTER TWENTY
"IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY"

SHAUN STEVEN STRUBLE
(ILLITERATERAINBOW.COM – @STRUBLE)
WRITING, COLORING, LETTERING

SINA GRACE
(SINAGRACE.COM – @SINAGRACE)
PENCILING, INKING

NICHOLAS BRANDT
(@NICHOLASBRANDT)
EDITING, MOTIVATING

ZACHARY TROVER
(@ZTROVER)
DESIGNING

L.J. CHASE
ASSISTANT EDITING

JENNA STRUBLE & DAN BURGOS
PROMO AND SOCIAL (RESPECTIVELY)

PIN-UP BY MATTHEW HAAS

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SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A JOHNNY PAYCHECK SITUATION TO ME, LDB.

FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, IT'S NOT A GOOD PLACE FOR YOU TO WORK.

YEAH.

IF THEY WON'T BELIEVE THAT THE GUY HIT YOU, YOU SHOULDN'T GO BACK.

SHOVE IT.

I GUESS.

ANYWAY, HOW'S THE TOUR GOING, DREW?

SO FAR JUST A LOT OF DRIVING.

OUR FIRST SHOW IS IN MEMPHIS ON SATURDAY.

AT THIS POINT, WE'RE JUST MAKING OUR WAY THERE.

I'M READY TO START.

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST SHOW WITH SPIKE?

GREAT.

WE HAD A LOT OF FUN.

LEMURIA PUTS ON A GREAT SHOW.

DESPITE HOW IT STARTED, IT'S REALLY BEEN A GOOD WEEK.

HONK HONK

GOTTA GO.

OH.

THE BUS IS TAKING OFF.

DEVO! DEVO! DEVO!

HAVE FUN.

LEMURIA

ANDREW JACKSON JIHAD

DEVO! DEVO! DEVO! DEVO

Ben Folds Five

COLLEEN GREEN I WANT TO GO OUTSIDE

HELLO?

I'MSORRYTO SPRINGTHISON YOUANDIKNOWWE WEREN'TGOINGTO MEETUPUNTILEIGHT BUTMYBIRTHDAYISCOMING UPANDMYDADISINTOWN TODAYSOMYFAMILY THOUGHTTHEY'D CELEBRATE TODAY.

WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF YOU MEET US AT JORGE'S AT SIX?

MY FAMILY WOULD REALLY LIKE TO MEET YOU.

YEAH.

I WOULD LOVE TO, SPIKE.

GREAT.

I'LL SEE YOU THEN.

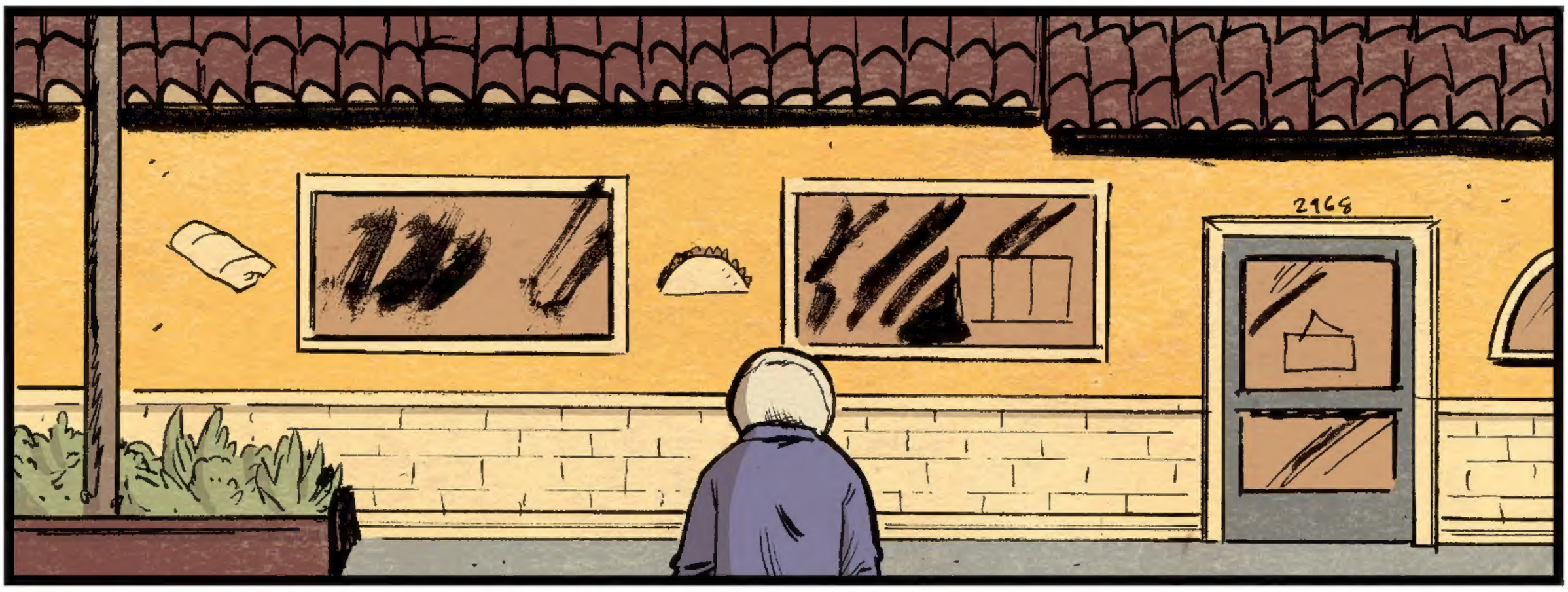
OH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING ME ANYTHING.

IT'S NOT MY REAL BIRTHDAY FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MR. ROGERS.

YOUR DAUGHTER MEANS A WHOLE LOT TO ME.

NICE TO MEET YOU...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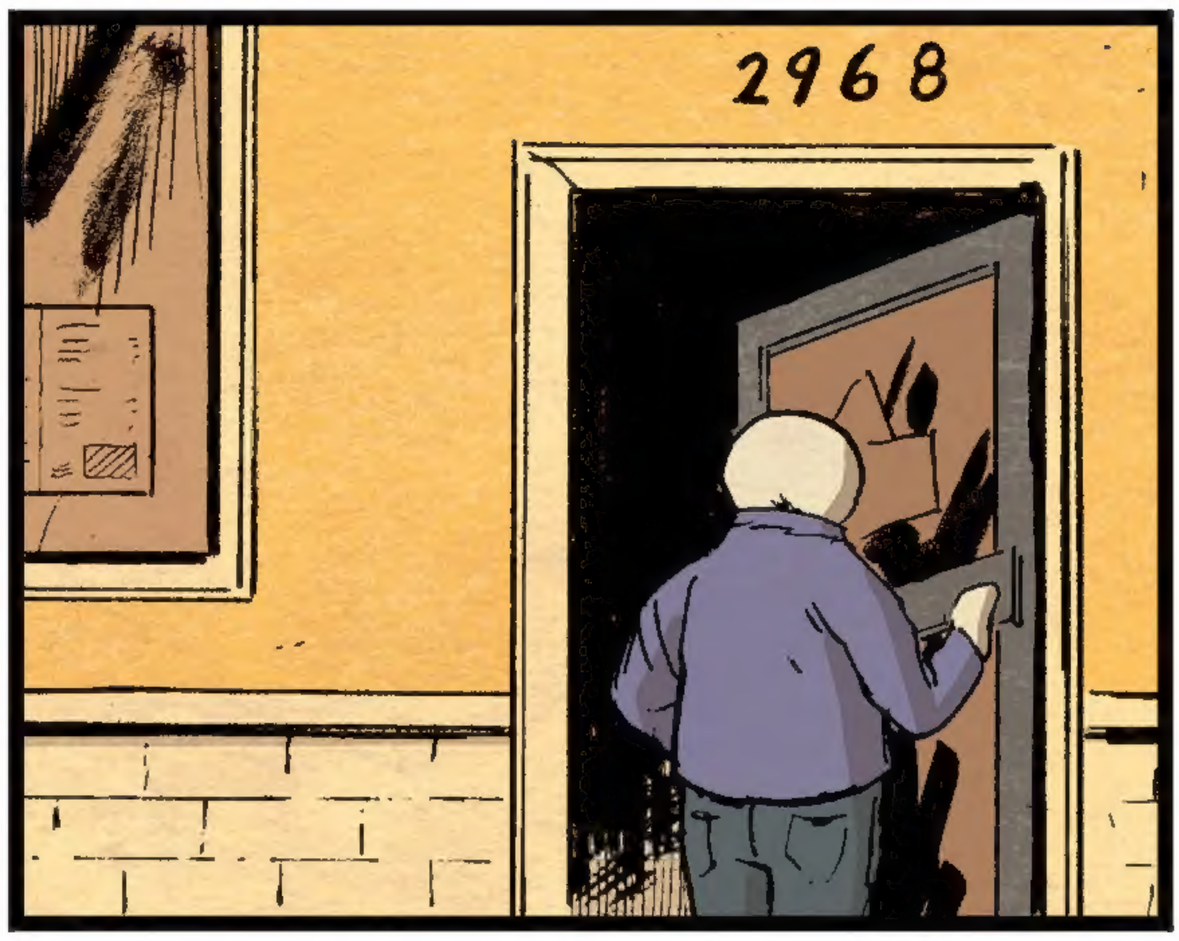
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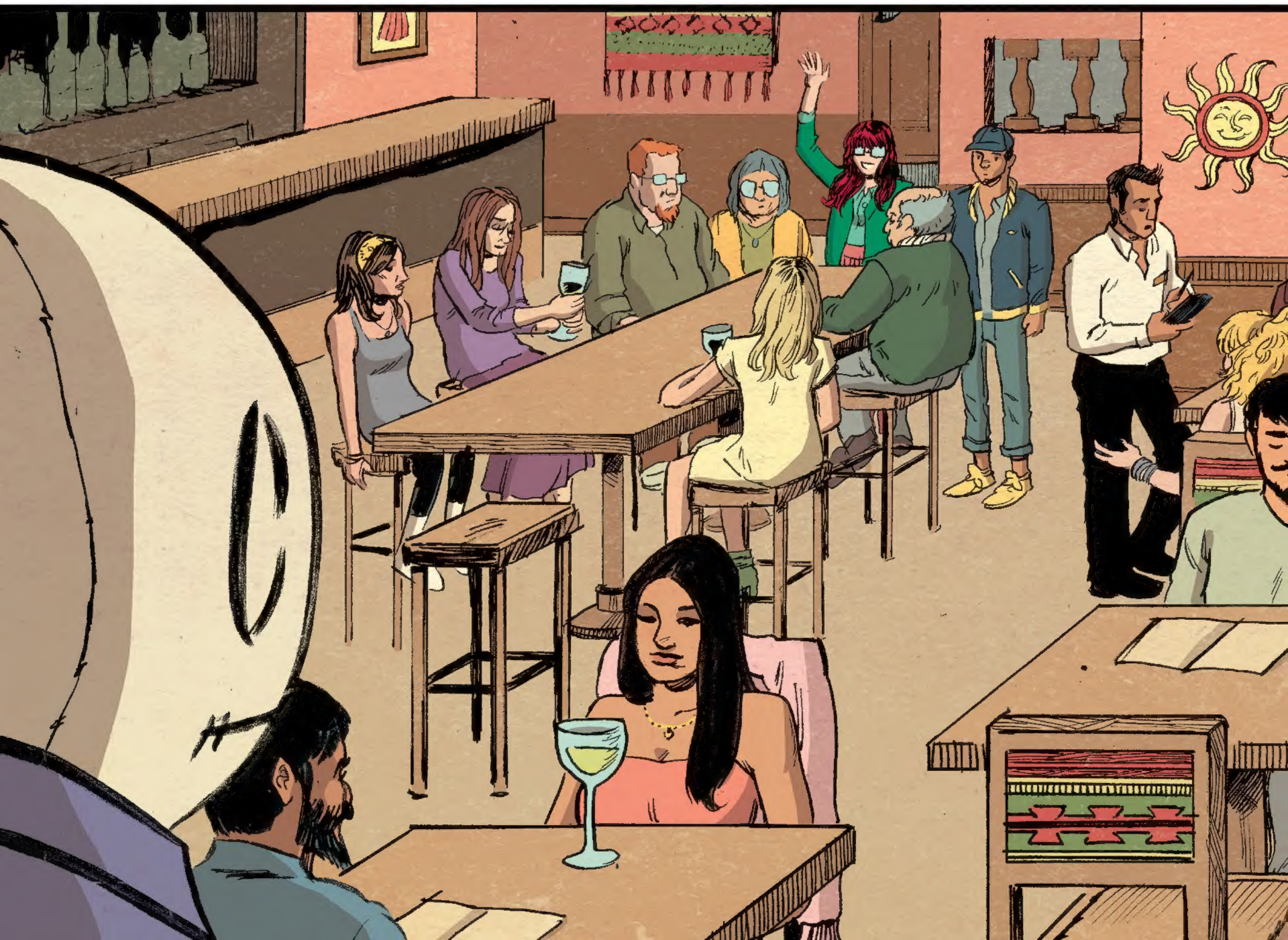


YOU'RE HERE!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
THESE ARE FOR YOU.
THANKS.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO EVERYONE.
THIS IS MY BABY COUSIN, AMIR.
HEY.
GRAMMY AND POP, THIS IS LDB.
HMF.

THIS IS MY AUNT BEATRICE.

CALL ME *BEA.*

WE'RE SO GLAD GERTRUDE HAS YOU.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY.

THIS IS MY... *BOYFRIEND...* LDB.

HELLO.

HEY.

THIS IS EMILY.

SHE IS MY BEST FRIEND.

DAD!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SWEET-HEART.

THIS IS THE GUY I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ABOUT -- LDB.

PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, MR. LDB.

EXIT

UM...

...

SIR...

HOW IS SCHOOL GOING, HONEY?

REALLYGOODTHE SEMESTERJUSTENDEDAND IGOTALETTERFROM...

...

YEAH.

JUST FINISHED THE SEMESTER AND I'M GETTING GOOD LETTER GRADES.

PSST!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE RESTROOM IS?

EXCUSE ME.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

AND THEN THERE WAS THAT TIME SHE CONVINCED ME TO SNEAK INTO THE ABANDONED WATER PARK AND CLIMB UP THE SLIDES...

WELL, LOOK AT THAT.

YOUR BROTHER RON FINALY ELECTED TO SHOW UP.

HEY BIG *SIFTER.*

SORRY, I'M LATE.

IT'S OKAY.

I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT.

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND...

...I KINDA BROUGHT A DATE.

SPIKE!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS A PARTY FOR SOME GIRL WITH AN OLD LADY NAME.

THIS IS SPIKE.

OH.

YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

YEAH...

WE GO *WAY* BACK.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

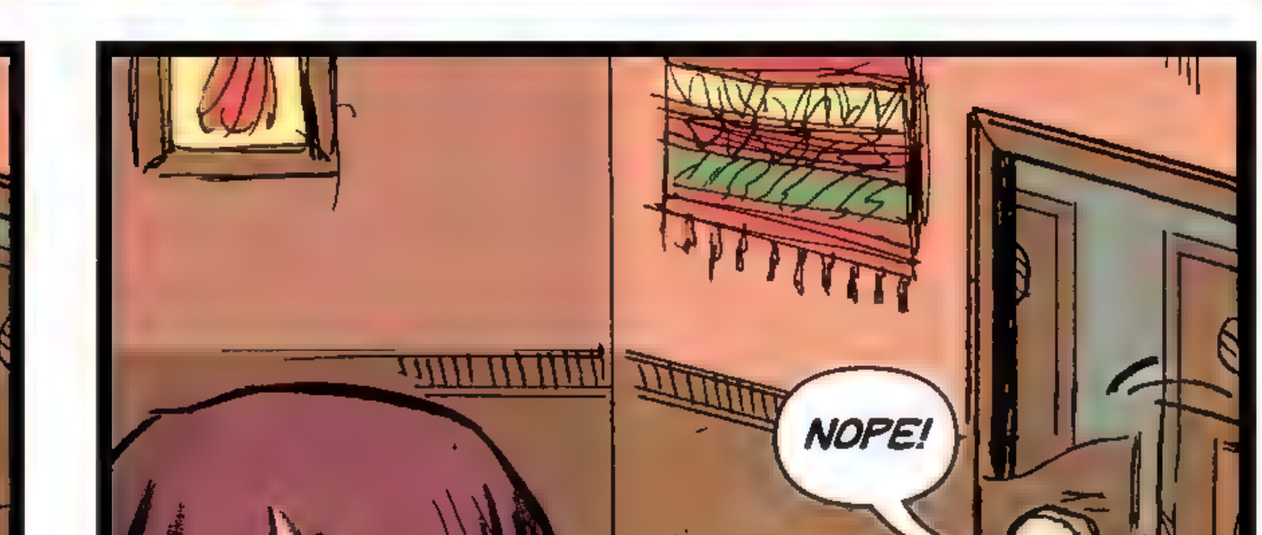
GERTRUDE, IS IT?

YEAH.

THANKS...

NOTICE

YOU CAN DO THIS.
IT'S JUST PEOPLE.



NOPE!

-- AND I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT IT'S WRONG...

BUT PEOPLE ARE GETTING WAY TOO UP IN ARMS ABOUT BIT TORRENT.

I'M AN *ARTIST,* I DON'T HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD TO BUY EVERY BAND I LIKE'S MUSIC.

THEY SHOULD THINK IT'S COOL THAT I'M EVEN LISTENING TO THEIR STUFF.

IF I LIKE SOMEONE'S MUSIC ENOUGH, I'LL GO TO THEIR CONCERT IF THEY ACTUALLY COME TO AMARILLO.

HECK, I'VE GOT A BAND SHIRT OR TWO IN MY CLOSET, TOO.

BUT THEN SOMETIMES THEY HAVE REALLY DREADFUL DESIGNS THAT MAKE ME WANNA GAG!

LIKE-- THEY SHOULD BE HIRING ME TO DO ART THAN SOME BOGUS GRAPHIC DESIGNER WHO SLAPS A BIG LOGO ON A SHIRT AND CALLS IT A DAY.

OOOOOUUUUUU...

22

DID YOU MAKE A WISH?

YEAH.

HERE.

OPEN MINE FIRST.

THAT WAS WEIRD.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

HOW DOES MY BROTHER EVEN KNOW HER?

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY RUN IN THE SAME CIRCLES.

I CAN'T EVEN PUT THEM IN THE SAME PLACE.

SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE WHO'D SPEND A LOT OF TIME AT THE LIBRARY WHERE HE WORKS.

YEAH.

SHOULD I TELL HIM YOUR STORY?

MAKE SURE HE'S *ACTUALLY* DATING HER.

I DUNNO.

IF YOU THINK YOU SHOULD, I GUESS.

IT'S KIND OF AN EMBARRASSING STORY.

I'D HATE FOR IT TO GET BACK TO HER.

THINGS ARE AWKWARD ENOUGH AS IT IS.

I UNDERSTAND.

I'LL KEEP IT TO MYSELF.

SWOO.

I WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK IN THE MORNING.

YEAH.

BEFOREIGOTHERE ISSOMETHINGINEEDTO TELLYOUA.S.A.P.

REMEMBERHOWISAID I'DHAVETOSWITCHSCHOOLSTO ACTUALLYSTUDYASTROPHYSICS WELLIJUSTGOTTHISINTHE MAILAND...

I'M TRANSFERRING TO *TECH* NEXT MONTH.

I'M MOVING TO LUBBOCK.

SOMEHOW MORE THAN JUST SOUND.

BY MISTERS STRUBLE & GRACE

DEPRESSEDBOYCOMIC@GMAIL.COM

Welcome back, gang-
No one is happier to see Jazz show up more than Sina... actually, no wait, it may be Struble. At this point, he hopes that you fully understand how not-right she is for LDB, and have shared a few chuckles with us right until the cliffhanger. What will happen next for our favorite couple? Let's do letters instead!

Dear LDB team,

It's been said many times before but it still rings true... there is a kinship with your work that is both comforting and alarming. I'm 28 years old and still find myself completely unaware of what I'm doing with my life.

I get caught up on feelings and emotions at the good times. The worst times I get caught up on the lack of feelings and emotions I have. I've suffered from depression ever since I was a little kid and I worry that I'm never going to be okay.

Your book captures the imprisoned feeling that I experience daily and in a way it's comforting to know other people feel it. Thank you for what you do and making the world feel less lonely.

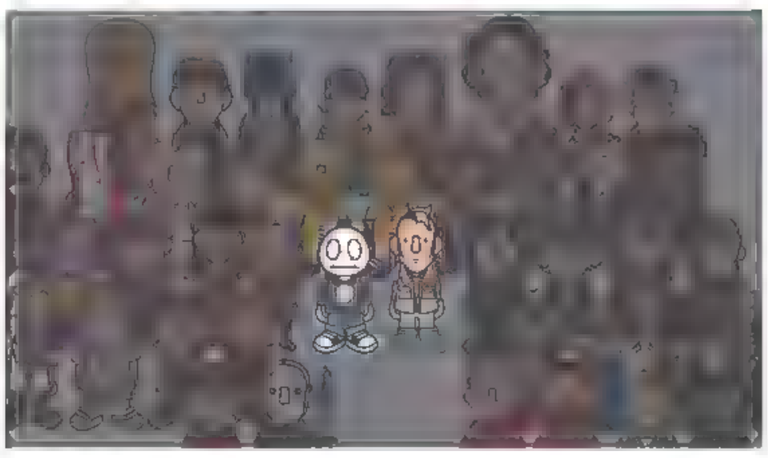
Corey Flanagan

With all sincerity, Corey- your letter has the same effect on us. Between Shaun, Sina, and LDB, the collective age range is 20s to early 30s, and the feelings expressed in this book don't go away with time... they just simmer down with the help of friendship, love, and finding passion in life.
Thanks for being our teammate.

Dear LDB team,

Greetings from the snowed in Northeast, hope you guys are staying nice and toasty cause right now it's in the negatives as I write this.

So far it is a great 2nd season of the comic and even if has been a bit difficult to attain the issues, stupid comic book shop dropped a lot of my favorites cause they got a new owner. I've been getting the new comics as soon as I can but it's been at least a week or two wait to get them in. I just want the comics to keep on coming and I'll keep on buying.



HOMIES BY ZACHARY TROVER

Sending a cold hello from NY,
-Toto Apostolov

With Shaun in Dallas, and Sina in Los Angeles, we've avoided some of the harsher moments this winter has had to offer! Glad you're digging the arc so far, and if ever you find a gap in your collection, make sure to check Shaun's big cartel for signed copies of everything LDB.

My friend James Parsons got me your comics signed for my 21st birthday. I was going through a really melancholic phase and reading something relatable really helped. It also got me into Andrew Jackson Jihad.

Thanks!
-Tom

It's our pleasure, Tom! This arc will ensure you become a Lemuria junkie!

LDB cru,

I love the way that you manage to create a honest and emotive book with lots of musical elements worked through it. Are there going to be more themed issues like the ones with Lemuria, Gambino etc?

Anton Jeremy Smeeton
P.S. Keep up the good work - you give me a reason to go back to comics each month.

Thanks for the kind regards, Anton. Music is as much a part of LDB as his journey to self-improvement. We never consciously say "let's do an issue dedicated to so-and-so," but rather it comes organically from Shaun's pacing the story and having conversations with musicians he loves.
That said, if they're willing, there would an entire issue devoted to LDB's love for Devo. LDB Annual: DEVO EDITION. You heard it here first!

LDB,

It is always a personal read. I have re-read my history through your ideal types of Jazz and Spike. They are not necessarily Weberian ideal types but rather the rocking women I have known. Such readings place me straight into LDB's frightening frustration that culminate in singular moments of contact-lucidity that are perfectly represented in a single panel, nearly every issue. We all move like caged in tigers, other artists can't get closer than this.

Much Love,
Ken Volante Portland, OR

That is kind praise that we heartily appreciate... right before we dive into major doubt about being any good. Also: where does Drew Blood fall in your analysis?

The worst part about no longer being able to afford my hold box is no longer reading this comic...

Carlin Heath

We love our retailers more than

words— they've supported the series through thick and thin— but it's also a fair point to suggest checking us out on comixology... we do sales there often, and want to make sure you're getting an LDB fix on the regular.

LDB!!! <--- This is letters . Keep up the awesome comic . My favorite comic of all time . (Really the only one I read)

Thanks again,
Mr Leftoverzack

Ps .. Kepi and LDB work together perfect.

Dope, dope, and dope! (Shaun wants to make it abundantly clear that Sina wrote this response. He does not condone the excessive use of the word "dope" as an adjective for "very good."

Dear LDB team,

I don't know if I've ever felt so connected to a character in literature let alone my favorite medium of comics. I'm terrified of life and women at an age where it's not cute and just kind of sad... To see a character so well represented and have following so strong does more for me than therapy, counseling or daytime television ever could.

Just thanks,
Brendan Mullen

Thank you, Brendan. While we're glad to know we've been a help in some way, we hope

Dear LDB peeps,

You guys rock. I was so happy when LDB came back. There's no other comic like it on the racks. Smart, sweet, funny, and oh so relatable. Do you have to get permission from the bands that LDB listens to? Have you ever thought about having a contest where readers pick what he listens to an issue? If LDB ever becomes a dad, what will his baby look like?

Keep up the great work you guys. Hopefully I'll see you in San Diego. #nightnurselove

Josh Crews
@joshcrewsreally

Josh, we love you immensely, but the bands and songs used in LDB are culled from Shaun's own process when coming up with the story. While we love what LDB means to the readers, the book comes from a very specific place in Shaun's mind, and the music is meant to reflect that.
We will say, however, that we encourage you to make your own LDB-inspired playlists and share on the Facebook page! We're always

BRENDAN MULLEN, INK BY CHRISTOPHER LICKERS

down to listen to new music.
(The baby will look exactly how you think s/he would look)

Dear LDB,

You brought me back to Image along with Hack/Slash and I'm so thankful you did. I happily await the next issue at my comic shop and buy the trades so I don't wear those singles out. This comic is a beautiful tapestry of story and art and may it last for years to come.

Trev D

Glad you're digging us and Image comics, Trev! Now you've got us wondering what an LDB & Hack/Slash crossover would look like...

I think this is the comic most rejects and outsiders Most relate to Because it's truly honest and tells it like it is yet also very funny for at least me I don't think there is going to be a better comic than this one for me

Novack from Miami Fl

We concur! Excelsior!

Greetings to the LDB team from Mexico keep up the good work!

Enrique Flores

Por supuesto, Enrique. Now go ask your publisher friends over there to do a Spanish-language LDB edition!

Dear Team LDB,

You were my first indie love. I remember the day I came across your book on comixology. I honestly can't say what compelled me to purchase all of those issues, but I did, and I've never looked back.

Over the past couple of years with the suddenness of my parents' divorce, on top of an identity crisis of sorts, your work has been one of a very small number of ports in this storm. As my reading list continues to grow and my friends introduce me to increasingly fantastic stuff, I always come back to LDB. I can't tell you how many times I've read through the issues, because I've honestly lost count.

Sina drew a sketch of LDB in the back of my journal that I still treasure to this day. My brother Christian has won a few tournaments using the card mat, that you guys decorated for him. The story of one guy trying to stumble his way through life and love has touched us both profoundly, and I never hesitate to share it with anyone who will listen.

Keep up the good work. You are making one heck of a difference.

- Jonathan Mendoza

Always happy to be a support, Jonathan. Any time we can make your day brighter, we'll do it! Life will always find new curveballs to throw, and the book is an outlet for us to deal with such events... glad it's doing the same for you.

The next time you hear from us, we'll have wrapped up one of our most favorite story arcs to date. We've been grinning, laughing, and mourning every moment in Supposed to be There, Too... We love keeping you all surprised, but there's been some legitimate heartbreak pushing and pulling LDB and Spike throughout.

Hugs all around,
Struble & Sina

The Li'l Depressed Boy
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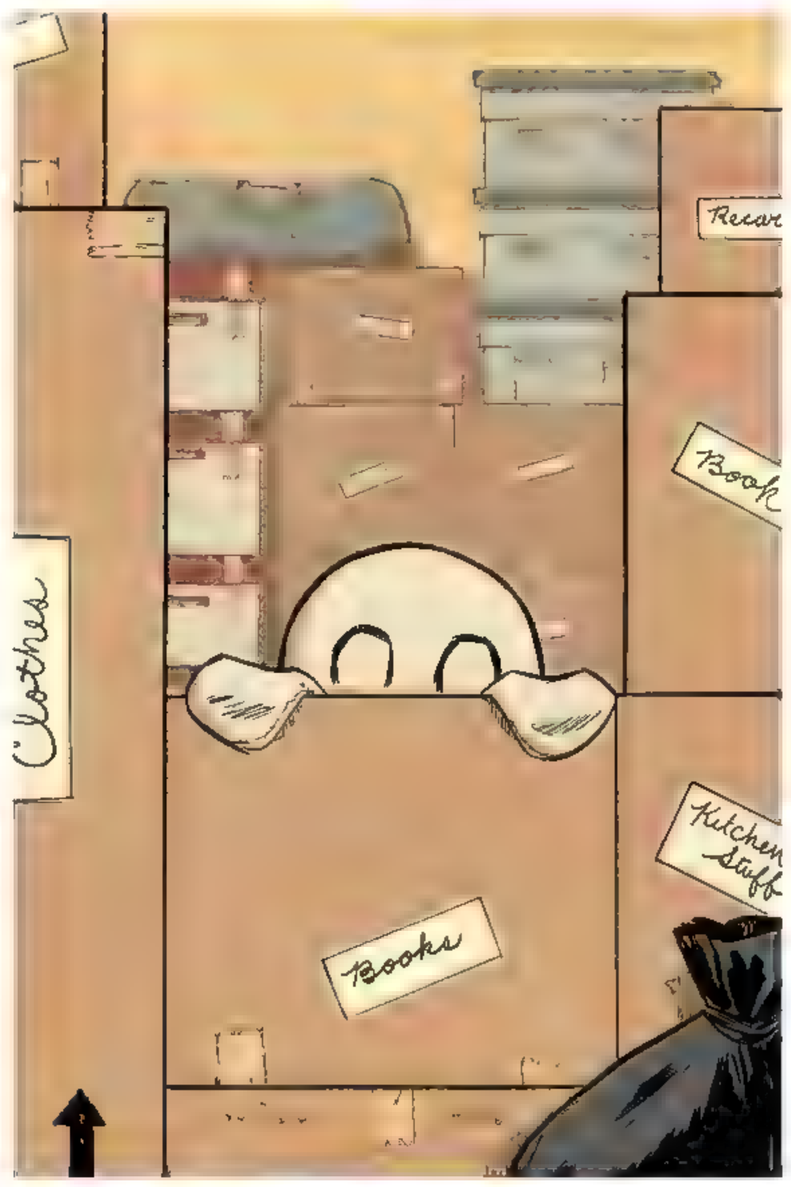

NEXT TIME:
"MOVE WITH YOUR LOVER"
LDB and Spike return to work after their suspension.

Q: ARE WE NOT MEN?
DEVO

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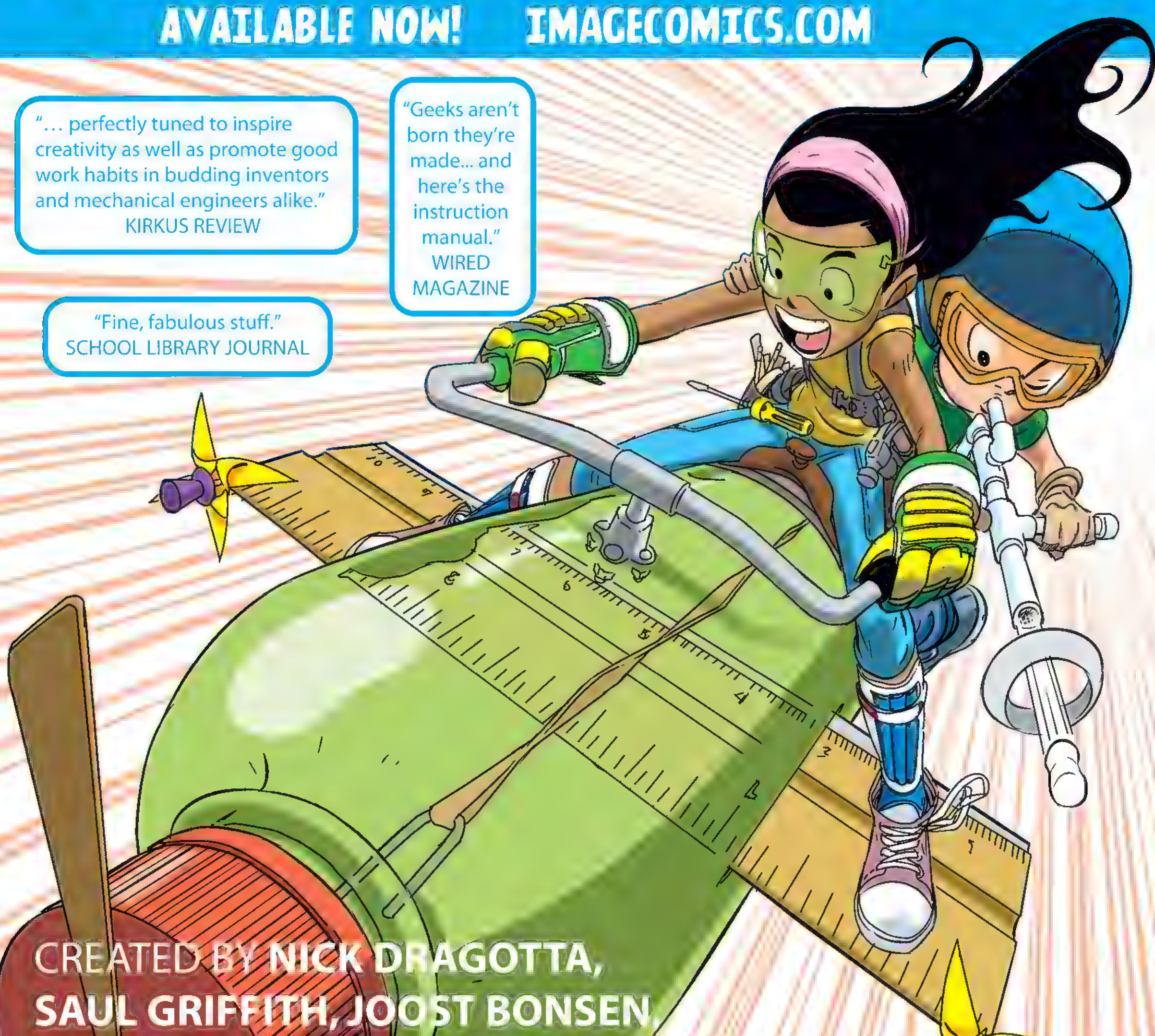

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